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JAMESTOWN

### Patrons of Lucy center donate her first contract

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JAMESTOWN - It's the 1933 signature that changed entertainment history. And little did Lucille Ball know that more than 70 years later, all the world would remember her lovingly simply as "Lucy."

The July 11, 1933, agreement between Lucille Ball and Samuel Goldwyn Inc. was recently discovered by William and Mary Rapaport of East Amherst.

The Rapaports are major donors to the Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center here, Ball's hometown. Mrs. Rapaport is a member of the center's board of directors.

The contract guaranteed that Ball would receive "railroad transportation including lower berth from New York to Los Angeles" and \$60 per week for a "role to be selected by the producer in a photoplay to be designated by the producer." That role turned out to be a showgirl in Eddie Cantor's "Roman Scandals."

The Queen of Comedy never made a return trip, instead appearing in 79 movies, over 100 radio programs, and more than 500 TV episodes during her lifetime.

"When my husband and I found these contracts in California we knew that we not only had to purchase them but we also had to immediately donate them to the Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center," Mrs. Rapaport said. "Lucille Ball's first Hollywood contract is historic and something that should not be retired to a private collection but instead shared with the tens of thousands of visitors the Lucy-Desi Center welcomes each year to Jamestown."

Rapaport, a former Jamestown resident, added, "Mary and I believe strongly in what the Lucy-Desi Center can do for Western New York, and we are more than happy to help downtown Jamestown become a world-class destination."

Pending plans for future display, the contract will join hundreds of artifacts currently in the center's archives. For more information, call 484-0800 or visit [www.lucy-desi.com](http://www.lucy-desi.com).